

CLAIMS

1. A method for controlling an apparatus (20) having an emergency alert function, comprising:

5 automatically tuning a plurality of frequency channels associated with said emergency alert function to identify one of said frequency channels having higher signal strength relative to said other frequency channels (310); and

using said identified frequency channel to receive emergency alert signals capable of activating said emergency alert function (320).

10 2. The method of claim 1, further comprised of:
performing a test with said identified frequency channel (410-450); and
providing an output message (1000-1300) responsive to said identified frequency channel failing said test.

15 3. The method of claim 2, wherein said test includes measuring signal strength on said identified frequency channel.

20 4. The method of claim 2, wherein said test includes determining whether said identified frequency channel receives a user selected location code associated with said emergency alert function.

25 5. The method of claim 1, further comprised of enabling a user to modify an existing location code associated with said emergency alert function (1470).

6. The method of claim 1, further comprised of enabling a user to add a new location code associated with said emergency alert function (1470).

30 7. The method of claim 1, further comprised of enabling a user to modify an existing event code associated with said emergency alert function (1490).

8. The method of claim 1, further comprised of enabling a user to add a new event code associated with said emergency alert function (1490).

9. The method of claim 1, further comprised of:
providing an alert output responsive to activation of said emergency
alert function (1940);
storing information associated with said alert output (1950); and
5 enabling a user to access said information (1960).

10. The method of claim 9, further comprised of enabling said user to replay
said alert output (1970).

10 11. An apparatus (20) having an emergency alert function, comprising:
tuning means (22) for tuning a plurality of frequency channels
associated with said emergency alert function; and
processing means (27) for identifying one of said frequency channels
having higher signal strength relative to said other frequency channels.

15 12. The apparatus (20) of claim 11, wherein said tuning means (22) tunes
said identified frequency channel to receive emergency alert signals capable of
activating said emergency alert function.

20 13. The apparatus (20) of claim 11, wherein said processing means (27)
performs a test using said identified frequency channel, and enables an output
message responsive to said identified frequency channel failing said test.

25 14. The apparatus (20) of claim 13, wherein said test includes measuring
signal strength on said identified frequency channel.

15. The apparatus (20) of claim 13, wherein said test includes determining
whether said identified frequency channel provides a location code selected by a
user.

30 16. The apparatus (20) of claim 11, wherein said processing means (27)
enables a user to modify an existing location code associated with said emergency
alert function.

17. The apparatus (20) of claim 11, wherein said processing means (27) enables a user to add a new location code associated with said emergency alert function.

5 18. The apparatus (20) of claim 11, wherein said processing means (27) enables a user to modify an existing event code associated with said emergency alert function.

10 19. The apparatus (20) of claim 11, wherein said processing means (27) enables a user to add a new event code associated with said emergency alert function.

15 20. The apparatus (20) of claim 11, further comprising memory means (27) for storing information associated with an alert output, and wherein said processing means (27) enables a user to access said information.

21. The apparatus (20) of claim 20, wherein said processing means (27) enables said user to replay said alert output.

20 22. A television signal receiver (20) having an emergency alert function, comprising:

a tuner (22) operative to tune a plurality of frequency channels associated with said emergency alert function; and

25 a processor (27) operative to identify one of said frequency channels having higher signal strength relative to said other frequency channels.

23. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 22, wherein said tuner (22) is further operative to tune said identified frequency channel to receive emergency alert signals capable of activating said emergency alert function.

30 24. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 22, wherein said processor (27) is further operative to perform a test using said identified frequency channel, and

enable an output message responsive to said identified frequency channel failing said test.

25. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 24, wherein said test
5 includes measuring signal strength on said identified frequency channel.

26. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 24, wherein said test
includes determining whether said identified frequency channel provides a location
code selected by a user.

10 27. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 22, wherein said processor
(27) is further operative to enable a user to modify an existing location code
associated with said emergency alert function.

15 28. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 22, wherein said processor
(27) is further operative to enable a user to add a new location code associated with
said emergency alert function.

20 29. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 22, wherein said processor
(27) is further operative to enable a user to modify an existing event code associated
with said emergency alert function.

25 30. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 22, wherein said processor
(27) is further operative to enable a user to add a new event code associated with
said emergency alert function.

30 31. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 22, further comprising a
memory (27) operative to store information associated with an alert output, and
wherein said processor (27) enables a user to access said information.

32. The television signal receiver (20) of claim 31, wherein said processor
(27) further enables said user to replay said alert output.